

Dear Parents,

25.9.23

This week we are reading the story Owl Babies and finding out all sorts of information about owls and nocturnal animals. If you have a chance, please talk about birds with your child, and maybe go bird spotting and look at bird books. Also, please do let your children bring in any owl related stories or toys to put on our topic table and show to the class.

The Owl Babies Story is one of our favourites in Reception as it is fun for the children to learn and re-tell. It also lends itself well to lots of discussion about families. We will do lots of creative activities centred around the cute owl babies, including making nests and bird hides.

We will start our formal phonics programme, Essential Letters and Sounds. Please see the school website for more information. [Harting Church of England School - Phonics \(eschools.co.uk\)](https://www.hartingchurchofenglandschool.co.uk/phonics) This week the children will learn the sounds: s a t p. They will learn to blend the sounds to read words with these letters. Next week we will be sending home reading books containing these sounds so that the children can practise what they have learnt.

In maths this week, the children will be encouraged to quantify sets of objects by subitising, rather than counting. When subitising, children can say how many there are in a small group of objects by 'just seeing' and knowing straightaway without needing to count. For example, knowing the amount of dots on a side of a dice.

The children like to be outside as much as possible so please remember to send a coat in every day even if the weather is fine in the morning.

Best wishes,

The Acorn Team

